AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cochlear implant comprising:

an implantable component including an implantable elongate electrode carrier; and

an external component including a clothing attachment device for attaching the external component to an article of clothing, the clothing attachment device comprising:

an elongate member adapted to pass through at least a portion of ~~an item~~ the article of clothing;

an engagement housing;

a plurality of engagement members disposed in the engagement housing and collectively configured to releasably engage at least a portion of the elongate member and configured to release said elongate member from said engagement members in response to the application of a magnetic field to said engagement members,

wherein at least one of said elongate member and said engagement housing is mounted to the external component.

2. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 1, wherein the elongate member is a pin member extending from a proximal end to a distal end.

3. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 2, wherein the pin member extends outwardly from a casing of the external component to its distal end.

4. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 3, wherein the proximal end of the pin member is integrally connected to the casing.

5. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 1, wherein the elongate member comprises a head and a pin member extending from the head to a distal end.

6. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 1, wherein the engagement housing is mounted to a casing of the external component.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 30, wherein the orifice extends from the front surface to a chamber within the engagement housing.

9. (Currently Amended) The cochlear implant of claim 8, wherein the chamber of the engagement housing has a inner wall of which at least a portion thereof is frusto-conical such that the chamber ~~expends~~ extends in diameter away from the front surface of the engagement housing.

10. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 9, wherein the non-spherical engagement members are configured to engage the elongate member on insertion of the elongate member through the orifice and into the chamber.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 1, wherein said engagement members are metallic members.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 8, wherein a biasing means is positioned within the chamber and, when in its relaxed condition, displaces the plurality of engagement members towards the front surface of the engagement housing and into the engaging configuration.

16. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 15, wherein the biasing means is a spring and plate, the spring being mounted between a rearward end of the chamber and the plate, and the plate being mounted to a forward end of the spring.

17. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 16, wherein the magnetic unlocking device is a magnet, and the magnetic field has a strength sufficient to overcome the bias provided on the engagement members by the biasing means and so cause the engagement members to move rearwardly relative to the chamber when brought adjacent a rear surface of the engagement housing.

18-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A cochlear implant comprising:

an implantable component including an implantable elongate electrode carrier; and

an external component comprising:

a casing;

at least one processor of the cochlear implant disposed in the casing;

an elongate member having a disc and a pin member extending from the disc and configured to pass through at least a portion of an item of clothing; and

a pin member engagement device having a plurality of magnetic spheres disposed in a circular arrangement within a chamber, the chamber having an inner wall, of which at least a portion is frusto-conical such that the chamber expands in diameter away from a front surface of the engagement device, the pin engagement device also having a spring mounted and configured to act between a rearward end of the chamber and a plate, the spring being adapted to urge the plate against the spheres within the chamber;

wherein an orifice is formed in the engagement device to enable entry of the pin member into the chamber, the plurality of spheres are configured to engage the pin member, the engagement of the pin member being releasable by a magnet configured to act on said plurality of magnetic spheres and having a magnetic field of a strength sufficient to overcome a force exerted on the spheres by the spring and so cause the spheres to move rearwardly relative to the chamber.

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A cochlear implant comprising:

an implantable component; and

an external component comprising:

a casing;

an elongate member;

at least one processor of the cochlear implant disposed in the casing;

a retaining means for frictionally retaining at least a portion of the elongate member in a first configuration and for releasing the at least a portion in a second configuration; and

a biasing means for biasing the retaining means into the first configuration; ~~and~~

wherein the retaining means is configured to enable the external component to be fastened to an item of clothing worn by a user of the ~~medical device~~ cochlear implant when the retaining means is frictionally retaining the at least a portion of the elongate member, and wherein the retaining means is configured to transition from the first configuration to the second configuration upon application of a magnetic field thereto.

25. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 24, wherein the elongate member is releasable from the retaining means by momentarily counteracting the biasing means to cause the retaining means to assume the second configuration.

26. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 25, wherein at least a part of the retaining means comprises a magnetic material and the biasing means is counteracted by applying a magnetic field to the at least a part of the retaining means.

27. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 26, wherein the biasing means is a spiral spring.

28. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 27, wherein the retaining means comprises a plurality of spheres disposed in a substantially circular arrangement within a chamber.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant of claim 6, wherein the engagement housing comprises an orifice extending into the engagement housing from a front surface thereof, wherein the orifice is configured to receive at least a portion of the length of the elongate member.